



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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PLAN TO EXPEDITE BIRD DEPREDACTION CONTROL EFFORTS ADOPTED

Procedures for expediting control efforts on bird depredations have been established by the Department of the Interior.

Under the Department plans, authority to issue bird depredation orders, now resting solely with the Secretary, would be delegated to the Director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Notice of this delegation of authority was carried in the Federal Register December 17, 1958.

The delegation of authority, includes some specific guidelines which the Director must follow:

Evidence must clearly show that migratory game birds are seriously injuring the the property of agricultural or other interests;

Such birds may be killed only with a shotgun not larger than No. 10 gauge held to the shoulder, and only over the particular property being threatened;

Shooting will be limited to a specific period fixed by the Director; if the condition is rectified before the end of the specified period then the Director must issue a new order terminating the depredation control activities;

Birds killed under depredation orders may be used for food or for scientific purposes or for public museums but they cannot be sold or bartered;

No depredation order shall be contrary to State law.

Regional directors of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife now have authority to issue migratory game bird herding or killing permits for use in the control of localized damage caused by such birds. Procedures of many years standing provide for the control of migratory nongame birds. For example a Secretarial order signed in 1948 gives anyone the right to kill blackbirds, cowbirds or grackle when and at the place where they are doing the damage.

Nonmigrating birds are the responsibility of the respective States. Responsibility for migratory birds rests with the Federal Government as the result of international treaties and with the Department of the Interior because of subsequent legislation.

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